



The Hemel Hempstead School

News

14 November 2008

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HeadLines

The current single by The Killers which is dominating the airwaves and my iPod is called 'Human'. The refrain of this pop anthem intones "Are we human or are we dancers?" On Monday night, the latter was the case...literally and metaphorically, at the House Dance Festival. Students danced rhythmically, joyfully and skilfully, whilst our hearts danced at the sheer exuberance and consequent magnificence of the event. Mr Jordan's exceptional turn as compere is to be applauded and I am pleased to hand over the bulk of the Headlines to him this week, in order to extol the virtues of our students at their best. The star of the West End and Broadway stage, Gertrude Lawrence, chose Shakespeare's words: "A star danced and I was born" for her autobiography. Her greatest role and, sadly, her final role, was as Anna in the first production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's 'The King and I'. 'Shall We Dance?' became the most requested song on radio just as The Killers' 'Human' is at the moment. Dance represents the purest of art forms and emanates from somewhere deep in our psyche and human experience. How pleased I am to celebrate its popularity and efficacy in our school. Oh and the answer to The Killers' question which they have borrowed from Hunter S Thompson is 'Both!'

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher



arts colleges

HOUSE DANCE FESTIVAL

Having experienced house events at The Hemel Hempstead School for the first time last year and having been thoroughly impressed, I was very excited at the prospect of another House Dance Festival so soon after the last one. When one's office is so close to PA1, it is easy to feel very connected to Dance and I became aware soon after this year's brief was given out that the standard was going to be very high indeed. The lunchtime air was full of John Barry themes and Shirley Bassey vocals as scenes from James Bond films were recreated in the medium of dance. Meanwhile, the after-school halls rang to the sounds of High School Musical and a veritable greatest hits of hip hop as some serious street dancing was finessed. The cleaners might have been afforded a break from buffing the floors such as the dying-insect like twirling and whirling as some of the more adventurous boys perfected their windmills – however, they were too often left to clear up the detritus of what must be the largest number of performers ever assembled for House Dance.

After two weeks all the Houses performed their pieces for the Dance staff and Miss Sepala was overcome with pride and admiration for what the House leaders and choreographers had been able to achieve in such a short space of time. The hard work which has been put in by Dance teachers over the years is now bearing wondrous fruit, with dancers graduating from GCSE and BTEC courses able to pick up a brief and respond to it in an instant. Monday night's technical rehearsal finished with eventual winners Ashridge nailing three absolutely incredible pieces. On that occasion, the cleaners could have buffed the floors with the jaws of rival House leaders and spectators, which had dropped to the ground in admiration. The word went round that Ashridge were the house to beat (how often can that have been said over the years?) and everyone else raised their game accordingly.

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This made for a wonderful night of entertainment at which I was privileged to occupy a grandstand seat in the wings. Pendley got proceedings under way with a colourful sub-continental take on James Bond which evoked memories of the Indian scenes from 'Octopussy'. House leader Hirrah Anwar took a pivotal role in this piece, while her co-captain Michael Deane was one of a trio of crooners (also comprising Paul Minter and Ben Walsh) who ushered in the next piece. Their contribution was put together by Chloe Turner, Nikki Bennett and Ben Walsh and was especially impressive given that they did not benefit from the aforementioned talent pool of ex-GCSE dancers. Hence, they had to dig deep into their resources and Jasmine Bond responded as she always does, retaining her Best Female Performer award.

Nettleden were choreographed by Sam Dashwood and Luke Meredith with assistance from Mark Allday, Amber Marsh, Nicole Hardwick, Ben Tavener and Fiona Moore. Luke could be seen coaxing and cajoling ambitious moves out of his performers, especially during their memorable chair dance routine. At some point he moved out from behind the scenes and danced his usual breathtaking steps to take a share of the Best Male Performer award.

Latimer described themselves as a tribe, which may well have been a reference to their Pirates of the Caribbean theme. However, there is an innately tribal quality about the leadership of this House as it is all-female (Eve Clancy, Emma Saunders, Natalie Pigott, Grace Alexander, Natalie Ashburner, Amy Howse and Bronte Archer). This must have helped them to lay first claim to prime rehearsal space in the Hall and it paid off for them as they carried off the Best Choreography prize for the dance devised by Natalie Pigott.

Defending champions Flaunden went down fighting with a trifecta of imaginative and innovative pieces. Kris Banks had welded together a number of musical tracks for the first two pieces meaning that choreographers Rosie Lutt, Emily Duff, Natalie Richardson, Rianna Sarsons, Alice Cook and Larissa Gillings were charged with creating dances that constantly changed shape and direction, asking the very most of their young charges.

Chalfont sought to improve on last year's runners up spot by decorating the stage with colour and movement and they wrought great performances out of young and old alike. Like Flaunden, this House had to look outside its leadership team for creative inspiration, which came from Claire Green, Amber Haynes, Hannah Richardson and Jenna Love but the leaders (Michaela James, Ryan Bellman-Jeffreys, Duncan Philpott, Helen Gleave and Emma Green) were fully involved too.

And finally....to the victors, the spoils. This year, this consisted of a delirious dash from backstage to upstage to reprise one of their infectious offerings. No-one could begrudge Ashridge. Everyone had enjoyed their three dances so much that I sensed there was genuine popular will behind them, despite inevitable partisan leanings towards other Houses. I personally loved 'Dr Beat', even on third viewing. Anyone who catches me off my guard this week muttering the immortal words "Doctor, I've got these feelings I just can't control" must blame House Dance. Brilliantly choreographed by the high-kicking Sarah Rae, Anna Rundle and Sophie Wadmore, the leaders of this House (who also numbered Hannah Parikh, Catherine Dean, Michael Holloway and Robyn Eames) somehow managed to fill the stage for each item with an incredible array of students from every year, moving as one in ghoulish make-up or pristine lab coat. Please can we have another repeat before too long?

Mr T Jordan, Deputy Headteacher

On Monday 10th November a wide range of students took part in, what I would call, an 'outstanding' event. With this being my first House event I didn't know what to expect. I was pleasantly surprised at the amount of people who signed up and took part to support their House. I really enjoyed the choreography for this event and loved the rush of turning it around in two weeks.

Overall, every House put in an enormous amount of effort and produced some fantastic work. It is great to see children of all ages, with a wide range of ability to dance, step up to take the challenge.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate all those who won an award and a special mention to Ashridge who won House Dance. I would also like to thank Mr Mitchell and the Dance department for all their hard work and the organisation that went into this event.

Luke Meredith 12N

Remembrance Headlines

May I thank all those who contacted me to thank me for what I said in the Remembrance Headlines last week.

I am gratified that so many of you agree with me as to how important it is to remember and to enable the school to participate in an act of remembrance.

Miss S Samwell, Headteacher

Would you like to become an Exam Invigilator?

Working alongside experienced invigilators you would provide an invaluable service to The Hemel Hempstead School by helping set up exams and supervising candidates.

If you are interested in finding out what this job entails, we are holding an information session on Tuesday 25th November between 9.30 am and 10.30 am.

Invigilators are required in December, January and from mid-May to the end of June.

Hours worked are agreed in advance. £8.20 per hour.

Please call Mrs McCausland, Examinations Officer on 01442 400111.

JOB VACANCY

**Strategic Area Partnership Office
Part-time Administrative and Employer Links
Post for the 14-19 Strategic Area Partnership
Office based in The Hemel Hempstead School.**

Approximately 5 hours per week (usually Weds pm and Thurs am – some flexibility will be needed). Term time only; fixed term contract until August 2009. Salary scale: H3 (£15,688) £8.13 per hour.

Own transport essential.

The job will involve offering administrative support to the Business, Admin., and Finance Diploma Development Group, liaising with employers and working closely with the SAPG Co-ordinator.

For further details: 01442 400110

Application: Send a letter of application and CV to SAPG Office, The Hemel Hempstead School, Heath Lane, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1TX or email to t.gogol@hhs.herts.sch.uk

Closing date: Wednesday 26th November 2008.

HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATIONS

For Excellent Work in History

Amy Dowse 8C

For Contribution to House Dance

Jesse Toms 9L, Matthew Prowse 9P, James Baxter 9C, Kieran Duke 9N, Adam Amamou 9A, Zachary Farrell 9C, Oliver Price 9C, James Price 9A.

For Excellent Contribution to Remembrance Assembly

Alex Brook 13A

Maths Stars of the Month for October

Year 7 Tom Baldwin 7F, Daisy Bodiam 7L, Emma Johnson 7C, Olivia Jones 7L, Chezanne Linton 7N, Catherine Allen 7F, Eve Murrell 7F, Molly Lee 7P.

Year 8 Mikaela Bushell 8N, Ryan Georgiou 8L, Sam Mairs 8P, Grace Kershaw 8F, Alice Cook 8A, Amy Dowse 8C.

Year 9 Sam Pigott 9L, Lauren Bodiam 9L, Sarah Grover 9P, Louise Donovan 9N, Lydia Carroll-Aylett 9C, Brittany Woods 9A.

Year 10 Jack Hoar 10C, Sam Evans 10C, Chloe Cavanah 10A, Rebecca Wood 10A, Denika Roberts 10A, Taylor Robinson 10A.

Year 11 Graham Taylor 11P, Natalie Kemp 11N, Hayleigh Hobbs 11A, Lauren Wood 11N, Max Farrelly 11F, Catryn Scantlebury 11A.

To all parents of pupils in Years 9, 11 and 12 REMINDER!

DACORUM CAREERS FAIR, 24th NOVEMBER

Please put a note in your diaries to attend the Dacorum Careers Fair taking place at 6 – 9 pm on 24th November at the Civic Centre in Hemel Hempstead, (HP1 1HH).

There will be around 40 employers available to talk to you about career opportunities including: Sir Robert McAlpine, Pure Digital, DSGi (Dixons), Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Herts County Council, Armed Services, Colleges, the University of Herts and Training Organisations (please see the school website for the full list).

There will also be talks taking place on the following subjects: Apprenticeships, University Finance and the new Diplomas.

There is no charge for attending the event, and there is free parking in the Civic Centre car park.

Ask your children for the letters they have been given over the last two weeks advertising this event.

Mr P Nash, Careers Department

Dates for Your Diary

Blue Week

- 17th Nov** West Herts College Open Evening for Post-16 courses at Cassio Campus 6pm
17th and 18th Nov Year 9 visits to Tate Gallery and Globe Theatre
18th Nov Years 12/13 Maths Lectures in London
Years 12/13 PE Conference in London
20th Nov Year 8 Parents Consultation Evening
21st Nov Race Night – Honduras trip fundraiser

Gold Week

- 24th Nov** Years 9, 11 and 12 Careers Event at The Civic Centre, Hemel Hempstead, 6 – 9 pm
26th Nov Year 9 Options Parents Information Evening
27th Nov Years 12/13 Design Conference
Year 9 West Herts College Open Evening at Cassio Campus 5 – 8 pm
28th Nov *Occasional Day – School closed to students and staff*

Calendar update:

- Christmas Concert - Friday, 5th December*
Christmas Carol Service - Tuesday, 16th December

PTA News

JUMBLE SALE

A huge thank you to everyone who helped on Friday and Saturday. Your efforts helped to raise a whopping £884. We look forward to March for the next one. *Our next meeting will be on Monday 1st December at 7 pm in the Library.* We would love to see you there.

Judith Stallworthy, Chair HHSA (01442 393266 or mobile 07749 727350), email s.stallworthy@sky.com

Gold Letters issued recently:

- Letter 59** Year 7 Interim Report
Letter 60 Year 8 Interim Report
Letter 61 Year 9 Interim Report
Letter 62 Year 10 Interim Report
Letter 63 Year 11 Interim Report
Letter 64 Year 12 Interim Report
Letter 65 Year 7 RE Trip
Letter 66 Year 7 RE Trip
Letter 67 GCSE Science Exams
Letter 68 GCSE Science Exams
Letter 69 School Bank
Letter 72 Year 10 German Exchange
Letter 74 Years 8 and 10 Health-Related Behaviour Survey



SPORT

FIXTURES

- Sat 15th Nov** Football v Marlborough 9 – 11am Yrs 7/10 (H) Yrs 8/9 (A)
Tues 18th Nov U16 District Cup Football v Adeyfield (A) 2.30 – 4.30 pm
Weds 19th Nov 1st and 2nd XI Football v Dr Challenors
Yr 7A and B Netball v Bridgewater (H)
Yr 7 English Schools Football v Cliff Hall (H) 1.30 – 3.30 pm
Yr 8 Football District Cup Final v Kings Langley (A) 2 – 4 pm
Thurs 20th Nov Yr 8 Basketball v Bridgewater (H) 3.40 – 6 pm
Yr 9 County Cup Football v Sheredes (A) 2.30 – 4.45 pm

RESULTS

- Yr 7 Netball v Abbots Hill lost 13-11
Yr 10 English Schools Basketball v Parmiters lost 70-51
Yr 10 County League Basketball v Ashlyns won 77-55

SPORTS NEWS

Year 7 boys Basketball training will now take place after school on a Monday, as well as at lunchtime. The session will finish at 4.30 pm. Everybody is welcome and it would be good to see as many boys as possible training regularly.

Mr P Bryson, PE Department

Canteen News

From Monday 17th November the coffee machine will be available for all students during Breakfast Club and morning break for a trial period. At no time are drinks allowed to be taken away from the Dining Room.

Ms D Linstead, Catering Manager

Library Notice

Waterstones will be attending the Year 8 Parents Evening next week where parents will be offered the opportunity to buy a book to donate to the Library. Your support will be much appreciated.

If you have any board games, complete and in good condition, that you no longer want we can offer them a comfortable and loving home in the Library.

Mrs E Krajewski, Librarian